

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05815 241916Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15

PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSC-05 /057 W

----- 129731

O R 241806Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4228

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5572

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USNATO 5815

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJ: NETHERLANDS MARITIME FORCE PLANS; DEN UYL REPLY TO SYG LUNS
LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 18

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW TEXT OF PO/75/123: LETTER RECEIVED THIS
MORNING BY SYG LUNS FROM NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL,
REPLYING TO LUNS' SEPTEMBER 18 LETTER ON NETHERLANDS MARITIME
FORCES REDUCTIONS PROPOSALS. IN COVERING NOTE, SYG STATES HIS
UNDERSTANDING THAT NETHERLANDS INTENDS TO MAKE GIST OF CONTENTS
OF DEN UYL LETTER PUBLIC EVENING OF OCTOBER 24. SYG INTENDS TO ASK
CMC TO STATE VIEWS ON REVISED NETHERLANDS PLANS PRIOR TO
DPC CONSIDERATION OF DEN UYL LETTER.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE HAGUE, 22ND OCTOBER 1975

DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NATO 05815 241916Z

THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THOROUGH
CONSIDERATION TO THE VIEWS OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING
COMMITTEE COMMUNICATED IN YOUR LETTER DATED 18TH
SEPTEMBER 1975.

THE DPC EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE FACT THAT REDUCTIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS MARITIME FORCES WERE ANNOUNCED SO SOON AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE PLAN AS LAID DOWN IN LAST YEAR'S WHITE PAPER. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN STATED BY THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT THAT FINAL DECISIONS ON THESE PLANS CAN ONLY BE TAKEN ON AN ANNUAL BASIS WHEN THE NEW BUDGET IS PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT. MOREOVER, ATTENTION MAY BE DRAWN TO THE PROVISION MADE IN THE WHITE PAPER, READING THAT IF UNFORESEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO ADJUST THE TOTAL OF STATE EXPENDITURES THE DEFENCE BUDGET WILL BE AFFECTED ACCORDINGLY. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS SITUATION CAME ABOUT MORE RAPIDLY THAN ANYBODY COULD POSSIBLY FORESEE WHEN THE WHITE PAPER WAS PUBLISHED. THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SEE ANY POSSIBILITY TO INCREASE THE DEFENCE BUDGET PROPOSED FOR 1976. THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES STRESS THE URGENCY OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW STRONGLY EXPRESSED DURING THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE-1975 IN THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FULLY MAINTAIN THE FORCES OUTLINED IN ITS NATIONAL PLANS, UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE ALLIED DEFENCE WILL SOON BE MADE.

IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM CONVICTION THAT BOTH THE QUALITY AND THE QUANTITY OF THE NETHERLANDS SHARE IN THE DEFENCE CAPABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE IS ON A HIGH LEVEL AND CAN STAND ANY COMPARISON WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF MEMBER-COUNTRIES OF ITS SIZE.

HOWEVER THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAS STUDIED NATO'S CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF ITS PROPOSALS AND THIS, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, HAS LED US TO A RECONSIDERATION OF THE INTENDED WITHDRAWAL OF 13 MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED TO NATO, THE MEASURE ON WHICH THE MAIN CRITICISM OF THE ALLIES WAS CONCENTRATED.

IN VIEW OF THE EXPECTED BUDGETARY SITUATION IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NATO 05815 241916Z

YEARS TO COME, A STUDY WILL SOON BE CARRIED OUT TO ASCERTAIN THE NECESSARY REVISION OF THE 1974 WHITE PAPER PLANS.

THE CONTINUATION IN SERVICE AND THE POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT OF THE NEPTUNE LONG RANGE MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THIS STUDY. PENDING THE STUDY THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF THE NEPTUNE AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.

THE GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER "DE ZEVEN PROVINCIE" WAS DECOMMISSIONED ON 17TH OCTOBER LAST. BUT THE SHIP WILL NOT BE SOLD BEFORE TWO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATES WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN MID 1976. SHE WILL STAY

IN RESERVE UNTIL THEN.

THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT IS OF THE OPINION THAT IT
HAS MET THE CONCERN OF THE ALLIES WITHIN THE RANGE OF
PRESENT POSSIBILITIES.

THE ALLIES WILL BE TIMELY INFORMED ABOUT THE GENERAL
DIRECTION OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED STUDY. IF THE STUDY RESULTS
IN PLANS REQUIRING NATO CONSULTATION THE NECESSARY
PROCEDURES WILL BE INITIATED IN GOOD TIME.

IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM THAT THE FORTHCOMING PERIOD
OF STUDY AND POSSIBLE CONSULTATION WILL CONTINUE TO
PROVIDE A FAIR NETHERLANDS SHARE IN THE COMMON DEFENCE OF
THE ALLIANCE. END TEXT. BRUCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO05815
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197510101/abbrzmtpl.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NETHERLANDS MARITIME FORCE PLANS; DEN UYL REPLY TO SYG LUNS LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 18
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006